

Serial No. 10/720,328

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 46 are presently pending in the Patent Application.

Claims 9 – 24 and 33 – 46 have been allowed.

Claims 1 and 25 are rejected.

Claims 2 – 8 and 26 – 32 are rejected.

The Examiner's indication of allowed Claims 9 – 24 and 33 – 46 is gratefully acknowledged.

Examiner has indicated that Claims 2 – 8 and 26 – 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Furthermore, Claims 3 – 8 and 27 – 32 are also objected to due to their dependency on Claims 2 and 26.

Applicant has rewritten Claim 2 by incorporating the features of Claim 2 into independent Claim 1; there are no intervening claims. Consequently, independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 3 – 8, which each, respectively, depend (directly or indirectly) upon allowable Claim 1 and each, respectively, recites additional features thereto, are also in condition for allowance.

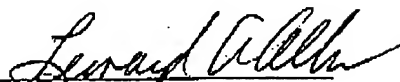
Applicant has also rewritten Claim 27 by incorporating the features of Claim 27 into independent Claim 26; there are no intervening claims. Therefore, independent Claim 26 is in condition for allowance. Moreover, Claims 28 – 32, which each, respectively,, depend (directly or indirectly) upon allowable Claim 1 and each, respectively, recites additional thereto, are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant requests allowance of Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 along with already allowed Claims 9 – 24 and 33 – 46.

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Accordingly, reconsideration, and allowance are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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